

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/975,267 11/20/97 NITSCHKE

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EXAMINER

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RULLER, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

15

DATE MAILED:

05/25/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Art Unit: 1731

Application No.: 08/975267

Art Unit: 1731

1. The reply brief filed 3/37/2000 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline Ruller whose telephone number is (703) 308-0316. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on (703) 308-3837. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7115.

JAR Ja

May 23, 2000



Stanley S. Silverman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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